

Checklist of Resource Concerns – NRCS Utah

PASTURE

CLIENT		LOCATION	
PLANNER		DATE	
LAND UNITS		TOOLS	

This check sheet is designed to assist planners and clients in identifying resource concerns during the planning process. The planning criteria outlined in Section III of the FOTG sets the minimum level of treatment. If a screening question is NO, this indicates no resource concern exists and no assessment is required. If a screening question is YES, the assessment must be completed to evaluate if there is a resource concern. If the Assessment is YES, Planning Criteria is met. If the Assessment is NO, the Planning Criteria is not met and a Resource Concern exists.

Resource Concern * required response	Screening Questions NO = Met Screening (Not a RC) YES = Go to Assessment	Y	N	Assessment Tools	Assessment Level Required to Meet Planning Criteria YES = Meets Planning Criteria NO = Resource Concern	Y	N
		E	O			E	O
SOIL RESOURCES							
1. SOIL EROSION: Sheet, rill and wind *	Are permanent ground cover < 90% and slope > 10%?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > RUSLE2 > WEPS > SISL 	Water erosion rate ≤T?		
2. SOIL EROSION: Concentrated flow erosion *	Are ephemeral gulls present AND Are classic gullies present?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Field measurements > Observations > Include photos 	Are conservation practices and managements in place to prevent or control ephemeral gullies? AND Is classic gully management adequate to stop the progression of head cutting and widening and are offsite impacts are minimized by vegetation and/or structures?		
3. SOIL EROSION: Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels*	Are streams or shoreline on or adjacent to site? OR Is bank erosion from streams, shorelines or conveyance channels present?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > SVAP2 > PCS-Pasture Condition Score 	Is PCS - streambank / shoreline erosion element score ≥ 4? AND For shorelines and water conveyance channels; are banks stable or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes? AND If present, is bank erosion caused by upstream land use and beyond the client's control?		
4. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Subsidence	Are Histisol soils present? OR Are there Histisols present exhibiting subsidence?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Client input > Planner observations > Include photos 	Is subsidence adequately managed to meet client's objectives?		
5. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Compaction	NONE			> PCS	Is PCS – compaction element score ≥ 4?		
6. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Organic matter depletion	NONE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > RUSLE2 > PCS 	IS SCI>0? OR Is PCS - plant cover element score ≥ 4? AND Is PCS - plant residue element score ≥ 4?		

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7. SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION: Concentration of Salts or other chemicals	NONE			➤ Soil diagnostic evaluations	Are conservation practices and managements in place to mitigate on-site effects?		
WATER RESOURCES							
8. EXCESS WATER: Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water table, seeps and drifted snow	Is excess water a problem? AND Do activities cause ponding/flooding problems?			➤ Client Input ➤ Planner Observations ➤ Include photos	Is excess water managed to meet Client's objectives?		
9. INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient moisture management	NONE			➤ PCS	Is PCS - compaction element score \geq 4? AND Is PCS - plant cover element score \geq 4?		
10. INSUFFICIENT WATER: Inefficient use of irrigation water *	Is the PLU irrigated?			➤ IWI-Irrigated Water Index ➤ FIRI (see note)	Is IWI \geq 85%? OR Is State established criteria met? NOTE: This will be changed to FIRI nationally with the correct threshold determined by WNTC when the policy comes out.		
11. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess nutrients in surface and groundwater *	Are water courses on or adjacent to the site and not designated by a State Agency?			➤ PCS ➤ Nutrient budget	Is PCS - streambank / shoreline erosion element score \geq 4? AND Is PCS - livestock concentration areas element score \geq 4? AND If nutrients are applied, are they based on a soil test, tissue tests or nutrient budget?		
12. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Pesticides transported to surface and groundwaters	Are pest control chemicals applied? AND Are water courses on or adjacent to the site and not designated by a State Agency?			➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos ➤ WinPST	Are pesticides stored, handled, disposed and managed to prevent runoff, spills, leaks and leaching? AND Are conservation practices and managements in place to minimize offsite impacts?		
13. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications*	Are potential sources of pathogens or pharmaceuticals applied on the land?			➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos ➤ UMARI	Are organic materials applied, stored, and/or handled to mitigate negative impacts to water sources?		

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14. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive salts in surface and groundwater	Is salt concentration a limiting factor?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos 	Are salt concentrations managed to mitigate off-site transport to surface or ground waters?		
	OR You are not part of the Colorado River Watershed? AND Are water courses on or adjacent to the site and not designated by a State Agency?						
15. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to receiving waters	Do activities present the potential for contamination? AND Are water courses on or adjacent to the site and not designated by a State Agency?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos 	Are petroleum, heavy metals or other potential pollutants stored and handled to avoid runoff or leaching?		
16. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Excessive sediment in surface waters*	Are permanent ground cover < 90% and slope > 10%? AND Are classic gullies present? AND Are streams or shoreline on or adjacent to site? AND Are water courses on or adjacent to the site and not designated by a State Agency?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ RUSLE2 ➤ WEPS ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos ➤ SVAP2 	Do upslope treatment and buffer practices address concentrated flows to water bodies? AND SVAP2 - bank condition ≥ 5. AND Are livestock and vehicle water crossings stable? AND Are areas stable? Is Water erosion rate ≤T? AND Is Wind erosion rate ≤T?		
17. WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION: Elevated water temperature	Is there a water course on or adjacent to the site with State Agency identified temperature impairment?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SVAP2 ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos 	Is SVAP2 - riparian area quality element score ≥ 5? AND Is SVAP2 - riparian area quantity quality element score ≥ 5? AND Is SVAP2 - canopy cover element score ≥ 6?		
	OR Is water course temperature a client concern? AND Are water courses on or adjacent to the site and not designated by a State Agency?				OR Are existing practices in place to address water temperature?		

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PLANT RESOURCES							
18. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Undesirable plant productivity and health*	NONE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clint input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos ➤ PCS 	Is PCS - desirable plants element score ≥ 3 ? AND Is PCS - plant cover element score ≥ 4 ? AND Is PCS - plant vigor element score ≥ 4 ? AND Are plants adapted to the site, meet production goals and do not negatively impact other resources?		
19. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Inadequate structure and composition	Will changes to the plant community structure or composition better support the desired ecological functions and intended land use? OR WHEG score ≥ 5			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ecological Site Descriptions 	Do plant communities contain adequate diversity, composition and structure to support desired ecological functions?		
20. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Excessive plant pest pressure*	Is plant productivity limited from pest pressure?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PCS ➤ Utah Invasive Species List Score 	Is PCS - insect and disease pressure element score ≥ 4 ? AND Is PCS - site adaptation element score ≥ 4 ?		
21. DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION: Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation	Is wildfire hazard a concern?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos ➤ Guide for quantifying fuels in the Sagebrush Steppe and Juniper Woodlands of the Great Basin 	Are fuel loads and fuel ladders managed to provide defensible space and meet client objectives?		
LIVESTOCK RESOURCES							
22. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION: Inadequate feed and forage*	NONE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos ➤ GRAS – Grassland Resource Analysis System ➤ Feed and Forage Balance ➤ Prescribed Grazing Spec Sheet 	Are livestock forage, roughage and supplemental nutritional requirements addressed?		
23. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION: Inadequate livestock shelter*	NONE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos ➤ Wind Factor Map 	Do artificial or natural shelters meet animal health needs and client objectives?		
24. LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION: Inadequate livestock water*	NONE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos ➤ GRAS ➤ Tool for water distribution 	Is water of acceptable quality and quantity adequately distributed to meet animal needs?		

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WILDLIFE RESOURCES							
25. INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE: Habitat degradation	NONE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Species or habitat-specific WHEG T&E and sensitive species list ➤ SVAP 2 	Is WHEG rating ≥ 0.5 ? or wildlife modifier $\geq .75$? AND when surface stream present Is SVAP2 – barriers to movement element score ≥ 7 ? AND Is SVAP2 – fish habitat complexity element score ≥ 7 ? AND Is SVAP 2 – aquatic invertebrate habitat element score ≥ 7 ?		
					OR Are conservation practices and management in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds?		
					OR Does available quality and extent of food, water, space and cover support habitat requirements for the species of interest? AND Is connectivity of habitat components adequate to support stable populations of targeted species?		
ENERGY RESOURCES							
26. INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE: Equipment and facilities	Is the Client interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client Input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos ➤ USDA approved energy audit ➤ NRCS energy estimator 	Has a USDA approved energy audit been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives?		
					OR Are on-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices been implemented to meet client objectives?		
27. INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE: Farming/ranching practices and field operations	Is Client interested in improving energy use in farm and ranch field operations?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client Input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos ➤ USDA approved energy audit ➤ NRCS energy estimator ➤ Conservation on the Farm Checklist 	Has a USDA approved energy audit been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives?		
					OR Are on-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices been implemented to meet client objectives?		

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AIR RESOURCES							
28. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Particulate Matter PM and PM precursors	Do activities contribute to agricultural source PM or PM precursor emissions? Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Burn is conducted • Travel ways are unpaved or untreated with binding agents • Engines (combustion source) • Tillage • Pesticides are applied • Fertilization (manure/commercial) • CAFO (manure management) AND Have episodes or complaints of emissions of PM (dust, smoke, exhaust, etc.), or chemical drift occurred?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client Input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos 	Are PM and PM Precursor emissions managed to meet client objectives?		
29. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)	Do activities produce GHGs emissions? Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilization (manure/commercial) • CAFO (manure management) • Engines (combustion source) • Tillage AND Are GHGs regulated in this planning area?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client Input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos 	Are emissions of greenhouse gases meet and managed by client objectives?		

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30. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Emissions of Ozone Precursors	Do operations produce ozone or precursor emissions? Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engines (combustion source) Pesticide application Burning CAFO (manure management) Fertilization (manure/commercial) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client Input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos 	Are ozone precursor emissions managed to meet client objectives?		
31. AIR QUALITY IMPACTS: Objectionable odors	Do activities contribute to nuisance air quality conditions? Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pesticide application CAFO (manure management) Composting is conducted AND Are odor sources regulated in this planning area? AND Have episodes or complaint of emissions of PM (dust, smoke, exhaust, etc.), or chemical drift occurred.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Client Input ➤ Planner observation ➤ Include photos 	Are odors managed to meet client objectives?		

NOTES: